

Easter Sunday – Year A

A little boy goes to the store, into the candy section, and there he is drawn to a Snickers bar. He takes it up to the counter and the cashier rings it up 59¢. The little boy reaches into his pocket and takes out 34¢. Somehow he lost a quarter. “That’s not enough,” said the cashier. “I’ll get another quarter,” says the boy. “I’ll be back, I promise.”

At work, two employees are on the assembly line doing their job. One of the workers appears distraught. The observant employee asks, “Is everything alright?” They reply, “No.” “Tell me about it,” says the concerned employee. “I can’t, you will tell someone.” “No, I won’t tell anyone. I promise.”

The bride walks down the aisle to meet the groom. They reach that magical moment when they state their vows. The groom is first and says, “I promise to love you in good times and bad, and in sickness and health, all the days of my life.”

Finally, an elderly parent, for health reasons, is placed into an assisted living facility. And after the family gets her settled, she says to her child, “Now don’t forget to visit me.” The child responds, “I’ll be here every Sunday, I promise.”

We live in a world of promises, but while some of those promises are kept, many, because of our humanness, are broken.

Easter is the great feast of Promise. The Good News of this day is that the promise of Jesus is fulfilled. Though dead, he is now alive. Christ is Risen. Alleluia.

In a world of broken promises, it’s heartwarming to witness a promise fulfilled.

You know, in Matthew’s Gospel on at least three occasions Jesus predicts his passion and death. But he also promises his resurrection – “by stating that the Son of Man will be raised on the third day.” And tonight/this morning the tomb is empty. Thank God for promises.

Easter though is not just about Jesus’ promise to us, but also about our promise to him and his Church. Traditionally on this day it is a custom to welcome new people to the faith through baptism. While infants can not speak for themselves, the parents speak for them and make a promise to do all in their power to bring them up into the ways of the faith. The godparents share in that promise. And those of age or in the case of our elect, make that promise themselves. And we, inspired by their promises renew our own baptismal promises in which we profess our faith and renounce sin.

Yes, Easter is all about promises – not promises broken, but promises kept. May the Lord give us the grace to be promise-keepers, not just today but everyday. May we be true to our promise to love God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and to love the Church which is holy but imperfect.

Where would we be in life without promises?

Now as a grateful and hopeful faith community let us stand and together renew our baptismal promises.

Sing – *Do You Believe*